NTC Mills

2202. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to refer Arati Cotton Mill and Central Cotton Mill of Howrah under N.T.C. to BIFR; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). The Arati Cotton Mill and Central Mill are under the NTC WBAB&O) Ltd. The NTC (WBAB&O) as a whole has been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. The BIFR has issued notice for winding up the subsidiary. The case is scheduled to come up before the BIFR on 3.1.1997.

Disinvestment Commission

2203. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the core group of Secretaries referred 40 public sector units including Air India and Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) to disinvestment Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has considered these cases at its meeting on 10 October, 1996;

(c) the total number of proposals received by the Commission so far;

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter;

(e) whether the target of Rs. 5,000 crore fixed by the Government for disinvestment during the previou year has been achieved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The 40 PSUs are being analysed by the Commission, which has also been meeting various institutions and organisations. It proposes to make its recomendations after wider consideration with reference to individual PSU.

(e) and (f). The target for disinvestment fixed during the previous year, i.e. 1995-96 was Rs. 7000 crores, which could not be achieved due to unfavourable market conditions.

Amendment in the Criminal Procedure Code

2204. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the Law Commission to suggest recommendations about bringing amendments in the criminal procedure code to ensure speedy disposal of criminal cases pending in the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the Commission is likely to submit its suggestions;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to bring certain amendments in the Advocates Act, 1961 so as to ensure that the law graduates coming out of Universities to be of professional excellence; and

(d) if so, the time by which these amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission have submitted its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act. No. 2 of 1974) which is in the process of laying on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Cellular Phones

2205. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the rampant smuggling of cellular phones in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated loss to the exchequer as a result thereof;

(c) the modus operandi of the illegal importer/ smugglers of the cellular phones;

(d) the overall impact on the indigenous manufacturers of cellular phones; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of cellular phones?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Some cases of smuggling of cellular phones have come to the notice of Government. Smuggling is a clandestine activity and exact extent including smuggling of cellular phones cannot be estimated, hence the loss to exchequer by way of smuggling of cellular phones cannot be